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LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I attach herewith a letter dated 15 June 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 15 June 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have read the results of the discussions that took place in the Security Council in the evening of 11 June 1998, under the item "Other matters", when you raised the subject of the identical Kuwaiti letters of 8 June 1990 addressed to the Security Council and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/1998/484 of 9 June 1998) concerning alleged statements attributed to Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, Vice-President of Iraq, concerning the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. On that occasion, the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America indicated that the above-mentioned alleged statements cast doubt on the adherence of Iraq to the Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 833 (1993) regarding the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, and said that Iraq was again taking a selective attitude to the Council's resolutions and the obligations Iraq has assumed.

On the conclusion of the Council's deliberations, you made a statement to the press as follows: "Concerning Kuwait, the Council expressed its deep concern regarding the statement made by the Vice-President of Iraq, which spreads doubts about Security Council resolution 833 (1993) on the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait".

We express our surprise and disbelief that the deliberations of the Council should have taken place without the members of the Council having read the official text of the statements made by the Vice-President of Iraq, and that you used the expression "deep concern" even before being aware of the views of Iraq.

Obviously, the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom overzealously raised this subject in the Security Council without carefully verifying the accuracy of the statements, and their dangerous political conclusions, which included casting doubt on Iraq's intentions on the basis of inaccurate information, were arrived at in haste, owing to the political designs of the two Governments against Iraq.

You and the members of the Council are aware that Iraq has circulated many letters concerning genuinely serious issues that posed and still pose a real threat to the sovereignty and security of Iraq. Some of these went as far as armed aggression, yet the Security Council did not decide to take them up; it was either completely silent or did not care about these issues. Flagrant examples are the many letters that we sent concerning the aggression by Turkish military forces against Iraqi territory which threatened the security and safety of Iraq; 10 letters have been addressed to the President of the Security Council on this subject, and 21 to the Secretary-General. We have sent more than 27 letters protesting against violations by American and British military aircraft of the sovereignty of Iraqi airspace in the north and south of Iraq; in addition, we have addressed many letters to the Secretary-General concerning the conduct and actions of the Government of the United States of America directed against the security, integrity and territorial unity of Iraq, and concerning

its flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs. All of these violations met with complete silence, and the Security Council made no move to condemn these violations or take any appropriate position regarding them.

With respect to the statements attributed to the Vice-President of Iraq about the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, we wish to state that the Vice-President met with a number of media representatives and spoke at length about the subject of the application of double standards in international relations as a result of the influence of the United States and the United Kingdom, particularly in the Security Council; he mentioned the intervention of the Security Council in demarcating the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait because the Security Council had never previously adopted a resolution on demarcation of a boundary between two States. The Vice-President never referred to the legal value of Security Council resolution 833 (1993). The statements attributed to the Vice-President were published by only one newspaper, which distorted the facts of the press meeting and attributed to the Vice-President statements which he never made. However, representatives of more than 10 newspapers and television stations attended the same meeting. It is worth mentioning that, when the Vice-President learned about these untrue allegations concerning his statements some days later, he made a statement to the Middle East News Agency of Egypt stating that Iraq is known for its strict adherence to all that it has signed and indicating that he had spoken at the press meeting which is the subject of this letter about the conduct of the United States, which is seeking to impose its aggressive aims through the application of double standards. He also indicated that he had not referred in his statement to resolution 833 (1993). Thus what was referred to in the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait as a statement attributed to the Vice-President of Iraq has no basis whatsoever.

The fact that, as the Vice-President said, the Security Council had not previously adopted a resolution concerning demarcation of a boundary between two States was underlined by Iraq at the time when the Security Council was discussing resolution 687 (1991) (document S/PV temporary record of 2981st meeting dated 3 April 1991); also, the representatives of Yemen and Ecuador referred to it in explaining their abstention in the vote on the above resolution, as did the representative of Cuba when he objected to the resolution (S/PV.2981). The representatives of Venezuela and Brazil spoke to the same effect during the discussion of Security Council resolutions 773 (1992) and 833 (1993) (S/PV.3224).

Finally, I wish to assure you that the reference made by the Vice-President of Iraq to the historical aspect of the practice of the Security Council concerning the issue of the boundaries does not mean in any way that Iraq is abandoning its obligations under the resolution demarcating the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

The misrepresentation by the Kuwaiti Minister for Foreign Affairs of the statements made by the Vice-President of Iraq can be explained only as an attempt to deceive the Security Council. Also, the precipitate espousal by the Ambassadors of the United States and Britain of the allegations mentioned in the letter of the Foreign Minister of Kuwait emphasizes once again how lightly these two ambassadors and their Governments take the work of the Security Council, and

how they make use of their membership in it to take, without justification, positions antagonistic to Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Security Council of this letter and circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq